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a submergence occurred even only as late as the Pliocene, what would it mean in regard to Atlantis? Our present, or Recent, short geological period was preceded by the Pleistocene, which was preceded by the Pliocene. The length of the Pleistocene is variously estimated, but a conservative estimate is about 500,000 years. This would place the submergence of the land in the Atlantic, if it occurred in the Pliocene, more than 500,000 years ago. Now can any one seriously maintain that any of the Egyptians, where Dynastic and Predynastic remains can hardly date back over 10,000 years, could have a tradition of an occurrence in the Atlantic dating back more than half a million years?

It is, of course, very probable that there were early men living in the late Pliocene. The famous Piltdown skull, about which so much pother has been raised of late, is considered by many competent archeologists to date from Pliocene times. Piltdown man was also sufficiently different from modern man to have been assigned to a separate class and to have been named after his discoverer *Eoanthropus Dawsoni*. The implements found in connection with the Piltdown skull are of the roughest chipped stone type, eoliths. Now, supposing that there were any Piltdown men on the sunken lands in the Atlantic, could any one pretend to believe that they were capable of building a city and palaces of white, black, and red building stones?

The theory which has been so long and so frequently the subject of controversy, namely, that Plato's Atlantis was in the Atlantic, seems untenable in the light of modern science. The theory that Plato's Atlantis was Minoan Crete, on the contrary, seems to stand up very well before recent archeological discoveries. At any rate it deserves to be more widely known, for it certainly seems to meet fairly completely the facts which the old Egyptian priest was trying to tell Solon and Solon to tell Plato of the destruction of what seems to have been the then already nearly forgotten civilization of Minoan Crete.

#### ATLANTIS AND ANTILLIA

By WILLIAM H. BABCOCK

In his discussion of Termier's paper in the January *Review* Dr. Schuller charges with *petitio principii* the French geologist's announcement that he awaits "the final answer" to the problem of Atlantis from anthropology and oceanography; also Dr. Hrdlicka's conclusion, from very considerable and persuasive evidence, that the American Indians came from Asia. The ancient and well-worn phrase seems a curious misfit in both instances. Both also are likely to define for a long time—the latter permanently—the general attitude of informed and thinking men.

But real and unwarranted assumption or question-begging is to be found in Dr. Schuller's own utterances. He observes of Atlantis: "As an island it is preserved on the first cartographical productions. After the discovery of America, its name, in the form of 'the Antilles,' was given to the islands at present termed 'West Indies.'"

Clearly, this allusion must be to the delineation of Antillia appearing on the fifteenth-century maps from Beccario,<sup>1</sup> 1435, and Bianco,<sup>2</sup> 1436, onward to the time of Columbus; but not found in the fourteenth-century maps, e. g., Dalorto,<sup>3</sup> 1325; Dulcert,<sup>4</sup> 1339; Laurenziano-Gaddiano,<sup>5</sup> 1351; Pizigano, 1367<sup>6</sup> and 1373,<sup>7</sup> and the slightly later ones of Soleri,<sup>8</sup> Pinelli, etc. Nor is it in Edrisi's twelfth-century maps of the Atlantic islands<sup>9</sup> preserved in the copies of the Pococke and Greaves's Arabic manuscripts. These two versions differ somewhat in details; but no link exists between any Edrisi island and either Antillia or Atlantis. Nor are there any intervening or earlier maps, yet reported, which offer any basis for Dr. Schuller's statement.

Plainly, then, the cartographical survival of Atlantis is found, if at all, not in the "first productions" but in relatively late ones, prepared after portolan-chart makers had been doing their work for about a hundred and sixty years (say from 1275 to 1435), also when Portugal had been for some time the most important agent in maritime discovery and would naturally tend to give any new insular find a Portuguese outline and a Portuguese name. Now, the elongated rectangular form of Beccario's and Bianco's Antillia—repeated also by Pareto,<sup>10</sup> Roselli,<sup>11</sup> Benincasa,<sup>12</sup> and the Weimar map,<sup>13</sup> once attributed to 1424 but now known to be later—appears a suggestion of Portugal; its position may fairly be described as opposite Portugal,

<sup>1</sup> Gustavo Uzielli: *Mappamondi, carte nautiche e portolani del medioevo e dei secoli delle grandi scoperte marittime costruiti da italiani o trovati nelle biblioteche d'Italia*, Part II (pp. 280-390) of "Studi Bibliografici e Biografici sulla Storia della Geografia in Italia," published on the occasion of the Second International Geographical Congress, Paris, 1875, by the Società Geografica Italiana, Rome, 1875; reference on Pls. 8 and 9 (the second edition, Rome, 1882, does not contain the plates).

<sup>2</sup> A. E. Nordenskiöld: *Periplus: An Essay on the Early History of Charts and Sailing Directions*, Stockholm, 1897.

Kretschmer: *Die Entdeckung Amerikas in ihrer Bedeutung für die Geschichte des Weltbildes*, 2 vols. (text and atlas), Berlin, 1892; reference on Pl. 4.

<sup>3</sup> A. Magnaghi: *Il mappamondo del genovese Angelinus de Dalorto (1325): Contributo alla storia della cartografia medievale*, *Atti del Terzo Congr. Geogr. Italiano, tenuto in Firenze dal 12 al 17 Aprile, 1898*, Florence, 1899, Vol. 2, pp. 506-543.

<sup>4</sup> A. E. Nordenskiöld, *op. cit.*, Pl. 8.

<sup>5</sup> Theobald Fischer: *Sammlung mittelalterlicher Welt- und Seekarten italienischen Ursprungs*, 1 vol. of text and 17 portfolios containing photographs of maps, Venice, 1886; reference in Portfolio V (Facsimile del Portolano Laurenziano-Gaddiano dell' anno 1351.), Pls. 4 and 5.

<sup>6</sup> Jomard: *Les monuments de la Géographie, ou recueil d'anciennes cartes*, . . . Paris, [1854-62].

<sup>7</sup> G. Uzielli, *op. cit.*, Pl. 7.

<sup>8</sup> A. E. Nordenskiöld, *op. cit.*, Pl. 15.

<sup>9</sup> P. A. Jaubert (translator): *Géographie d'Édrisi, traduite de l'Arabe en Français*, 2 vols. (*Receuil de Voyages et de Mémoires publié par la Société de Géographie*, Vols. 5 and 6), Paris, 1836 and 1840; also later by Joly and Goegi. The Pococke and Greaves MSS. are in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

<sup>10</sup> K. Kretschmer, *op. cit.*, atlas, Pl. 5.

<sup>11</sup> E. L. Stevenson: *Portolan Charts*, *Publ. of the Hispanic Soc. of Amer.* No. 82, New York, 1911.

<sup>12</sup> K. Kretschmer, *op. cit.*, atlas, Pl. 4.

<sup>13</sup> Preserved in the Grand Ducal Library of Weimar. Part showing Antillia never reproduced; writer has photograph, made in Weimar.

out beyond the Portuguese islands across a great expanse of sea; and its name Antillia has exactly or very nearly the sound of Anti-illa or Ante-illa —*illa* being the older Portuguese form of *ilha*, island, and found on many maps. Here we have a perfectly natural genesis and derivation. Why go back instead to the Greek *Atlas* and the ancient *Atlantis* tale of submergence?

Moreover, while a drowned land might leave a few jutting peaks above the surface, it would not be represented by a great insular mass like Beccario's and Bianco's *Antillia*. Nor could any fragment, if preserved, be expected to retain the shape of the entire lost island, so as to afford corroborative evidence, such as some have thought they drew from a comparison between the map island and the description given by Plato.

The hypothesis of the identity of *Atlantis* and *Antillia* dates back nearly to the first revival of interest in the map of Bianco, 1436, and has numbered d'Avezac among its adherents, though he did not subscribe to it very confidently. But they have remained a minority. It did not convince Formaleoni,<sup>14</sup> nor Alexander von Humboldt,<sup>15</sup> who devotes an interesting passage of the "Examen Critique" to his positive dissent, nor Nordenskiöld,<sup>16</sup> who states roundly in his "*Periplus*" that all maps showing *Antillia* should be classed among maps relating to the New World and proceeds to put his precept into practice.

In view of these facts, it is certainly quite unwarranted to assert that *Antillia* of the maps represents *Atlantis* or that *Atlantis* had anything to do with naming the *Antilles*.

The name *Antillia* may be older than the special area and outline with which it was so long associated, for we seem to find it as "*Atilie*" or "*Atilæ*" in a corrupt and uncertain Latin inscription on Pizigano's above-mentioned map of 1367, so well reproduced by Jomard. A picture, inverted, of a huge statue accompanies it as having been set up on the shore of the island, not shown, to warn navigators against sailing farther west. The location might indicate Corvo,<sup>17</sup> where there was also a tradition of a statue, but one rather inciting than restraining. The item is too frail to lean upon. If this word be not *Antillia*, the name was as unknown as the great island form before the fifteenth century, so far as present information tells us. If it be *Antillia* on Pizigano's map, then this name made afterward a mighty migration southwestward to reach the abiding-place of Beccaria's *Antillia*.

The latter island seems most reasonably explained by three items—the tradition recorded on Behaim's map<sup>18</sup> that an Iberian ship had visited

<sup>14</sup> Vicenzio Formaleoni: *Description de deux cartes anciennes tirées de la Bibliothèque de St. Marc à Venise*, pp. 91-168 of the same author's "*Essai sur la marine ancienne des Vénitiens*," trans. by the Chevalier d'Henin, Venice, 1788.

<sup>15</sup> A. von Humboldt: *Examen critique de l'histoire de la Géographie du Nouveau Continent*, 5 vols Paris, 1836-37; references in Vol. 2, pp. 192 and 211.

<sup>16</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 177.

<sup>17</sup> A. von Humboldt, *op. cit.*, Vol. 2, p. 325.

<sup>18</sup> E. G. Ravenstein: *Martin Behaim: His Life and His Globe*, London, 1908.

it in 1414; the inscription on Beccario's 1435 map to the effect that Antillia and her consorts are newly reported islands; and the well-defined scheme of great insular land areas, constituting a remote southwestern archipelago, so confidently repeated on the maps during many years and so unlikely to occur in the first instance to any one who had no actual knowledge of the West Indies.

As to Atlantis, Plato's minute and realistic description may indicate only the literary skill which clothes a tale with verisimilitude; but it is probable that its general drift and catastrophe embody a genuine tradition, and this would most likely have some reality behind it sure to grow enormously in the telling—a growth that might well be stimulated by the need to explain the well-known impediments of the Sargasso Sea.

In fact sudden loss of insular territory has occurred in rather recent times. According to a work on the Azores by a native of Flores,<sup>19</sup> an appreciable slice of that island, two miles long, simply fell off about the middle of the last century and formed temporarily a new island, and also caused a great wave which drowned two people on Corvo, six miles away. This latter island, too, may have had its losses. Though now much the smaller of the two, it is shown as far the larger on the maps of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, also as being in shape like a clover-leaf, a form which it does not now present. We cannot say whether this difference is due to some early inaccuracy of report or drawing, slavishly repeated, or whether it records some subsidence of the island or other change reducing its area. Perhaps all these East Atlantic archipelagoes may profitably be investigated with such possibilities in view.

But at present we can only say that neither the maps nor records show any great loss of land and that a vast Atlantis, suddenly sunk, would be unique in human history.

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<sup>19</sup> Borges F. de Henriques: *A Trip to the Azores*, pp. 14, Houghton & Co., 1867.